

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 7, 9-13, 17, 18, 27 and 28 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 7 and 9-11 are amended. The amendments introduce no new matter. Claims 4-6, 8, 14-16 and 19-26 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in those claims. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance as indicated in the Office Action; and (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the incorporate previously claimed, reviewed and allowed subject matter. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to an indication of allowable subject matter provided in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowability regarding claims 8-11. Those claims are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. The amendment to claim 1 is taken in light of this indication of allowable subject matter. Specifically, independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate the indicated allowable subject matter of claim 8 and claim 8 is canceled.

The Office Action makes final the Restriction Requirement and thus, withdraws claims 4-6, 14-16 and 19-26 from consideration. Claims 4-6, 14-16 and 19-26 are canceled.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 7, 12, 13, 17, 18 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,532,317 to Hanneman and rejects claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hanneman in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,034,405 to Brady et al. (hereinafter "Brady"). The amendment of claim 1, incorporating the indicated allowable subject matter from

now-canceled claim 8, obviates the rejection of claim 1. The dependence of claims 2, 3, 7, 12, 13, 17, 18, 27 and 28, directly or indirectly, on allowable claim 1 obviates the rejections of those claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-3, 7, 12, 13, 17, 18, 27 and 28 are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-3, 7, 9-13, 17, 18, 27 and 28 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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